United Nations S/2017/481

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 June 2017
English
Original: Spanish

Identical letters dated 7 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the letter in which the President of the Republic of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, requests, on behalf of the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — People's Army (FARC-EP), the establishment of a second special political mission under the terms indicated therein (see annex). I should be grateful if you would transmit the attached letter to the members of the Security Council and have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) María Emma **Mejía**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 7 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Identical letters dated 5 June 2017 from the President of Colombia addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The signing of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, on 24 November 2016 in Bogotá, was the result of a long and complex process of negotiations between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — People's Army (FARC-EP). In addition, it marked the start of another process that is no less difficult: that of implementing the agreements reached.

The support of the international community and, in particular, of the United Nations through the special political mission, has been instrumental in ensuring full compliance with the agreement reached between the parties concerning the monitoring and verification of the bilateral and definitive ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, and the laying down of arms.

During their visit to Colombia on 4 and 5 May 2017, the members of the Security Council witnessed the full commitment of both the national Government and FARC-EP guerillas to comply with the agreements reached. In addition, they confirmed their firm support for the process and noted the initial progress made and the difficulties encountered in implementing the agreements. As you know, 1 December 2016, day D+1, marked the start of the 180-day timeline set out in the item entitled "End of the conflict", which establishes the procedures for FARC-EP members to gather in the local camps and lay down their weapons. On 29 May 2017 the parties agreed to extend the deadline for the surrender of individual weapons to 20 June 2017.

Under item 6.3.3 of the Final Agreement, the national Government and FARC-EP agreed to request the United Nations to establish a second special political mission. In accordance with the mandate set forth in that item, the mission's mandate will include verifying the reintegration of FARC-EP members into political, economic and social life and the implementation of personal and collective security and protection measures, and comprehensive security and protection programmes for the communities and organizations in the territories.

According to the Agreement, the verification mission will remain in operation for a period of three years, renewable if necessary. It will be of a political nature and will encompass both regional and local verification.

Taking into account that the process of reintegrating FARC-EP members into civilian life will begin in July, the parties are requesting the Security Council to establish the verification mission by 10 July 2017.

The mission will engage in dialogue with relevant bodies and agencies, in particular with the Commission for Follow-up, Promotion and Verification of Implementation of the Final Agreement, the National Reintegration Council and the National Commission on Security Guarantees.

I am confident that, as has been the case with the current Mission, the firm support of the United Nations for Colombia will be instrumental to ensuring that our process — which is unprecedented in terms of comprehensiveness, complexity and

scope — will continue to be implemented as agreed between the parties and will reach a successful conclusion.

On behalf of the people of Colombia, I take this opportunity to reiterate to the members of the Security Council, and to all States Members of the United Nations, our gratitude for the support shown for the Colombian peace process.

(*Signed*) Juan Manuel **Santos Calderón**